

The Evening World.

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QUEER CREDITOR POLICY.

REPORTS from the Supreme Council tell us the question of German indemnities is "settled." In all probability the terms are just about as "settled" as the tariff policy of the United States—and no more so.

The Supreme Council bears something the same relationship to Germany that a creditor does to a mercantile establishment perilously close to insolvency.

The present policy of the Council may be compared to a demand by such a creditor that the debtor advertise in the newspaper that its goods are priced 12 per cent. higher than those of its competitors.

Germany may manage to pay part of the instalments, even with a 12 per cent. export duty levied for the "protection" of other nations. But the time will come when Germany will be forced to ask and the Council will be forced to grant repeal of this provision.

Nominally Germany is to pay in gold. Actually Germany can pay only in commodities. If Germany succeeds in meeting a few indemnity payments, her exchange situation will be benefited to such an extent that the uneconomic 12 per cent. differential will be an oppressive and impossible handicap to further payments.

Meantime this feature must be regarded as an evidence of canny commercial foresight on the part of Great Britain. While seeming to satisfy France with a heavy indemnity, the British hope to benefit by the workings of this export tax in the markets where Germany was a vigorous competitor before the war.

In effect the Council says to Germany, "You must pay," and with the 12 per cent. export tax it adds a theatrical aside, "But we'll jolly well fix it so that you can't pay."

At any rate, such a policy ought to go far toward justifying the League of Nations in the eyes of its recent Republican critics. The 12 per cent. tax is squarely in line with orthodox Republican "protective" policy.

"Why should I object to cigarettes when I use them myself?" asks President Hibben of Princeton University. And he adds: "Cigarette smoking should be in moderation."
Oh, no, Dr. Hibben. No more moderation, no more temperance, no more self-restraint, no more strength of character developed by resistance to temptation. To be a strong man you must be sealed up in a jar of prohibitions.

A REAL SAILING RACE.

AMERICAN sportsmen will approve the conditions laid down by King Albert of Belgium in his offer of a cup for a transatlantic sailing race.

The race is open to the world. There are to be no restrictions, no measuring of hulls, no time allowances, no delay because of weather, no waiting for feather-light breezes which will not jerk the sticks out of the frail toy racing boats.

The race, as outlined, is a man's game, with full play for judgment, skill and daring in ship building and sailing.

American sportsmen will not shrink from such a test. Nor need America fear the trial. Not all the old Yankee clipper ship captains are dead. Assemble a few of these old-timers as a board of strategy and America will have a coaching service second to none.

Recruit a crew of Grand Bankers such as sailed the *Esperanto* to victory in the fishing schooner race off Halifax last fall, and America need ask no odds for skill and daring of the human element.

If any nation can build better sailing ships, let us know it.

The mere fact that the America's Cup races last summer caused so much critical comment, even from the winning Nation, makes King Albert's offer more welcome. Let us have a real sailing race. Let's go!

In answer to a plea for a tariff on honey, Senator Thomas of Colorado told the Senate he would not act to protect the American bee from "the pauper bees of Europe." Presently the Republican Old Guard will have to bestir itself to protect the whole sacred, protective tariff idea from the merciless punctures of American common sense.

BERGDOLL AND BENEDICT ARNOLD.

WHY, may we ask, are Americans trying to get Bergdoll out of Germany?

The question applies whether his would-be kidnappers belong to the army, the secret service or merely to the ranks of unduly zealous citizens.

If Germany wants Bergdoll—if Germany will have Bergdoll—let her, by all means. If ever there was an example of "good riddance of bad rubbish," Bergdoll is one.

Germany is where Bergdoll belongs—if he belongs anywhere. Germany is welcome to him—just as welcome as England was to Benedict Arnold.

And recalling the fate of Arnold, could Bergdoll's

bitest enemy wish him worse than having to live in Germany? For the moment, while war hates run hot, Bergdoll may pose as something of a hero amidst the Prussians. But that feeling will wear away and Germans will learn to despise Bergdoll as Englishmen despised Arnold.

Arnold had, at least, the saving grace of courage in his treason. Bergdoll is only—Bergdoll.

As a conciliator, Gov. Miller has established a State record.

HOUSING AMERICAN DIPLOMATS.

SITTING as a committee of the whole, the House of Representatives agreed last week to accept the offer of the former home of J. P. Morgan in London as a residence for the American Ambassador. The House also approved an appropriation of \$150,000 for the purchase of an American Embassy in Paris.

This seems to indicate an awakening of Congress to the long standing impropriety of letting representatives of the United States camp out, so to speak, in foreign capitals.

It is an old and familiar complaint that only rich men can afford to be American Ambassadors or Ministers. The corollary of that complaint is that the Diplomatic Service of the United States offers no real career to men fitted for it by character, education and training, unless they happen to have bank accounts that will stand its heavy expenses.

The fact that representatives of this Government in foreign countries do not wear gold lace does not mean that the dignity of the United States is not concerned whether they rent a palace or a flat.

Niggardliness in failing to provide suitable residences for American diplomats abroad has never secured additional respect for American democracy or resulted in any gain or advantage to this Nation.

The last thing the United States has ever wished to do or wishes to do now is to make a splurge in the capitals of other countries. But there's a long way between making a splurge and doing what far poorer nations do in providing proper housing for their accredited representatives at the seats of foreign Governments.

It's about time this country had a Diplomatic Service that paid its own way right to the top, instead of depending on the private pocketbooks of wealthy appointees to keep up the credit of the United States among Ambassadors and Ministers of other nations.

ALFRED T. WHITE.

BROOKLYN has lost one of its first citizens in the death of Alfred T. White.

It would have been hard to find anywhere in Greater New York a man whose life had been more devoted to civic usefulness or who was more respected and esteemed by those among whom he lived.

A pioneer in the movement to provide better housing for workers, Mr. White built the first model tenement house group in the United States. He was persuaded to take the office of City Works Commissioner of Brooklyn and was later an efficient member of the Tenement House Commission of New York.

He was also deeply interested in the welfare of children. He built the first seaside home for poor children of the city in summer. He was a director of the Brooklyn Children's Aid Society and of the Brooklyn Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children.

President of the Brooklyn Bureau of Charities, director of the City and Suburban Homes Company, trustee of the Phipps Buildings and of the Russell Sage Foundation, lover of music and incorporator of the Brooklyn Academy of Music, donor of money for a Brooklyn arboretum and enthusiastic patron of the Botanic Garden of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, Alfred T. White was a broad and many-sided philanthropist.

He was often called Brooklyn's best and foremost citizen.

Public office had to seek hard to find him. But for public need or benefaction he was ever conveniently at hand.

FROM THE CITY OF HI LAN.

To the Honorable Mayor of Peking, China:
In this City of Hi Lan the admirable Mayor makes all effort to apply our ancient wisdom to the ruling of his people and would succeed but that he is cursed with a generation of bandits into whose hearts the seeds of goodness never have fallen.

It is written in our Book of Books how 2,000 years ago the Wang Rebellion brought famine and Te'ai Shan went forth to gather mulberries; how a robber would have slain him, but observing that Te'ai gave his mother the ripe berries and fed his own hunger on the unripened ones, rewarded his filial piety with presents of bread and meat.

So Hi Lan, rather than be harsh with his bandits, sought rather to have their hearts touched by the sight of paymasters going eagerly with bags of money to pay the workers in the business places of the city. He thought that seeing the goodness of these paymasters, the bandits would let them pass in peace, and perhaps even reward them with presents of jewels and furs taken from the rich.

But the bandits have fallen savagely upon the paymasters and have beaten and robbed them, so many workers have gone home on pay day with empty pockets. This has brought complaint to annoy Hi Lan, and his spirit is sad with knowledge that bandits are evil men.

HONG COMMISSIONER.

They Won't Lighten This Load!

By John Cassel

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From Evening World Readers

What kind of a letter do you find most readable? Isn't it the one that gives you the worth of a thousand words in a couple of hundred? There is fine mental exercise and a lot of satisfaction in trying to say much in a few words. Take time to be brief.

Not "Boston or a Book."

To the Editor of The Evening World:
I shall be grateful for the privilege of replying to your correspondent from East Orange, N. J., who raises several interesting questions regarding the teachings of Christian Science. Not "Boston or a Book," as he intimates, but God heals the sick through the operation of his divine law. The book in question reveals the facts and points the way. Christian Science does not conceive of "God as abstract" but rather as infinite Life, Truth and Love, available here and now to heal the disorders including sin and sickness to which material man believes himself to be subject.

This correspondent fails to discriminate between spirituality and spiritualism. Mrs. Eddy definitely teaches the impossibility of communication between those on different planes of existence, that is, different stages of consciousness; but this does not by any means deny Jesus' experience of transfiguration. With his unprejudiced and unparallelled standing, through which he was able to overcome material law in all directions, it seems altogether probable that he was likewise able to rise above the beliefs in material life to a degree that enabled him to undergo transfiguration. In that exalted state he may well have been able to communicate with Moses and Elias, and to have gained the power of prophecy. I would respectfully refer the question to the chapter of Spiritualism in Mrs. Eddy's major work, "Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures," which may be found in public libraries. Sincerely yours, ALBERT E. GILMORE, 52 Vanderbilt Ave. Jan. 26, 1921.

Advices Wage Cut.

To the Editor of The Evening World:
As the transit companies of our city are looking for increased fares, would it be of any interest to them to reduce the wages of their employees, thereby increasing their revenue, instead of looking for increased fares from the traveling public?

Corporations all over the country are now reducing the wages of their employees. I can assure you the riding public would be in accord with such a move after the way we have been treated since the last strike—for the company's benefit. SUBWATER.

That State House.

To the Editor of The Evening World:
Will you or your readers kindly inform me as to when ex-soldiers are going to get that State bonus. We voted on it, if I remember. January is about ended, and yet there has not been a word printed as to what the Legislature is doing about it. I only hope it comes before I die of old age. I would like to purchase at least two pair of shoes and a hat with my bonus. If they don't hurry it, I'm afraid I won't need those things any more.

However, my grandchildren might have use for it.

Just when are we going to get it? BROKE.

Why? Oh, Why?

To the Editor of The Evening World:
Assemblyman Edmund H. Jenks of Broome County, N. Y., will introduce before the Legislature shortly a bill known as the Jenks Fare Bill, to raise or lower (sic) the fares on Greater New York.

I would like to know why a gentleman residing in a county about 200 miles from this city is so vitally interested in the foregoing question. Has he ever been jammed into the "L" or subway? Has he had to experience a long wait for a train, to be pushed and trampled upon in an effort to board same? Has he ever had the buttons torn off his overcoat, or lost a belt off the latter? Presumably not. Then why is he so anxious to give the traction companies higher fares? It will be remembered that in April, 1920, he sponsored a "fare bill" which might have been rushed through if it were not for the alertness of a few New York newspapers in exposing it.

By the way, has the Interborough taken off any trains on the Third Avenue "L" southbound between 8 and 8:30 A. M.? It seems so to me, as the gap between the trains are sometimes five minutes, causing overcrowding and delay all the way downtown. MAX J. SILVER, 1076 Bixby Avenue, Bronx, N. Y.

Cost of Insurance.

To the Editor of The Evening World:
In answer to "R. P. G." and under your caption "Good! Insure All Vehicle," I would like to know what insurance company he is President of. I have never had an accident, after driving ten years. I have a Ford commercial car, which just makes a living for me. I inquired last week and the cost of liability alone is \$200 per year. Entirely out of my reach. In my opinion, insuring all vehicles would still more encourage the professional accident fiend.

W. J. BEDELL, New York, Jan. 25, 1921.

Safeguarding the People.

To the Editor of The Evening World:
I cannot suppress my gratitude for the noble efforts that you are making with such persistency to frustrate the many attempts to victimize the people of the United States. The wonderful fearlessness with which your valuable journal safeguards the welfare of the people is one of the too-rare instances of true journalism. You dare to do right.

It is a pity that the chosen representatives of the people in Congress and the Legislature have to be watched in order to protect the welfare of the whole Nation against the rapacity of a few snakes.

EMANUEL L. S. HART, New York, Jan. 28, 1921.

"Blue Laws."

To the Editor of The Evening World:
I was down in Texas last year and happened to run into some of the proposed "Blue Laws" in Fort Worth, Tex., a few reformers and

UNCOMMON SENSE

By John Blake

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THE MAN WHO ACCEPTS HIS OWN EXCUSES.

To make excuses is easy and natural. They rise to the lips of the schoolboy who has spent in play the time he needed to get his lessons. They flow spontaneously from the clumsy workman who has spoiled the work he was producing. It is probable that most people make a million excuses in the course of their lifetime. And the tragedy is that so many people accept their own excuses.

Now there is justification sometimes for the schoolboy's excuses. It is boy nature to explain away his laziness. Sometimes there is justification in the excuses of elders. At any rate, excuses have been made, since the dawn of history and will be made forever.

We shall not counsel our readers not to make excuses. That, we know, would be utterly useless. But we do counsel them not to make excuses to themselves, and above all not to accept their own excuses.

You know well enough why you neglected to do an important work, or why you put off till to-morrow, and then until the year after next, something that you should have done yesterday.

You know that you did it because you were too lazy or indifferent to do the job when it should have been done.

So don't tell yourself that you did it because the job was not worth doing, or because you didn't feel well enough to tackle it, or because you had something else to do that was more important.

And if you do tell yourself that, as you probably will, in spite of what we are saying to you now, don't believe yourself and don't accept the excuse.

The habit of making excuses to yourself and accepting them will soon undermine your intellectual stamina and begin to sap your moral fibre.

Be square with yourself at least. Tell yourself the truth and take no excuses whatever.

List your faults and your failures and blame yourself for them. List your bad habits and try to get rid of them. Admit that it was indolence that made you let a job go over till it was too late to do it, and bad temper and not bad health that made you peevish with people who had a right to expect cheerfulness and courtesy from you.

Be your own severe but just judge. Make no excuses and take none, and you will soon find that you will need to make none, for you will have no derelictions to excuse.

Words From the Wise

Just is a captivity of the reason and an enraging of the passions. It hinders business and distracts counsel. It sins against the body and weakens the soul. —Jerome Taylor.

Despotism and freedom of the press cannot exist together. —Gambetta.

A good book is the precious life-blood of a master spirit, embalmed and treasured up on purpose to a life beyond life. —Milton.

Get-Rich-Quicks of The Ages

By Suetosar Tonjoroff.

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IV. THE AUGURS.

The name of the man who invented the easiest, simplest and most remunerative get-rich-quick scheme in history, when the original investment is considered, has been lost in the darkness of remote ages. He was the gentleman who founded the College of Augurs in Rome, when Rome was very young.

Here is what the College of Augurs did: It pretended to be able to foretell the future by the way birds flew, or chirped or squawked, or pecked at their food. Also, by the way four-footed animals walked or trotted, or by the language of thunder and lightning.

The founder of the college and all his successors in the business of foretelling the future by these mysterious auguries showed their genius for profit-taking in one way more than in any other. They positively refused to let anybody—be he plebe or patrician—into their deep secret.

This secret they guarded more jealously than any inventor ever guarded his invention until he had patented it and put it on the market.

When the state was contemplating any venture, whether of peace or of war, the College of Augurs had to be consulted first. If the gentlemen who constituted the augural trust found that the birds flew, or chirped or squawked favorably, the state was at liberty to go ahead with its enterprise. If the augurs shook their heads after consulting the birds, the animals or the thunders—or all three—then the state bowed to their powers of divination and gave up the contemplated job.

By this control of mysterious knowledge the augurs gained a dominating power in the Roman state. What was even more to the point, they assured for themselves and their successors a fat living without doing any harder work than sitting around and looking exceedingly wise.

There is reason to believe that the gentlemen of the college were frightened enough from the beginning of their get-rich-quick enterprise to read the signs of birds, animals and thunders and lightnings in a way that in the main met with the approval and favored the interests of the patricians.

At that time the patricians had cornered the intelligence and the authority of the state, and their attitude toward the plebeians could be patently expressed in the advice of the late Russian autocracy to the 180,000,000 Russian moujiks: "Be silent and do not think."

But the plebeians all the time were showing signs of thinking and betraying an inconvenient tendency to ask questions. This certainly the patricians were not slow to suppress by applying the death penalty for sacrilege.

All the augurs had to do when their authority of divination was disputed by any citizen of the plebes was to cry "Sacrilege!" The patricians did the rest. In return for this sympathetic attitude on the part of the patricians the augurs saw to it that the birds or animals or thunders mentioned properly from the patrician point of view.

This heads - you - lose - tails - I - win game was a work of art with immense profit to both augurs and patricians, until the inner mechanism of the College of Augurs was exposed to public view by the increasing political and religious light of the advancing centuries.

The last of the augurs was either killed or put to work with immense profit to both augurs and patricians, until the inner mechanism of the College of Augurs was exposed to public view by the increasing political and religious light of the advancing centuries.

Which teaches us that even the most carefully devised and jealously guarded get-rich-quick scheme has its vulnerable points. The principal one is the assumption that all the people can be fooled all the time.

Ten-Minute Studies of New York City Government

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By Willis Brooks Hawkins.

This is the fifty-fourth article of a series defining the duties of the administrative and legislative officers and boards of the New York City Government.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Vacation Activities.

The summer schools, open to pupils above the grades of the fifth year only, give elementary instruction to those who have not been promoted; to foreign children who need help in English; to those who must complete the required period of attendance in order to obtain employment certificates and to those pupils of over age who are recommended by the principals. These schools are in session from 9 A. M. until noon five days a week for the month of August. The playgrounds supervised by the Department of Education are open from 1 P. M. to 5:30 P. M. five afternoons a week for seven weeks.

Evening recreation and social centers conducted by the department provide lectures and social entertainments, including athletic, dramatics, dancing, games, etc., and the use of shower baths. Clubs for various purposes are maintained and books are furnished through co-operation with the New York Public Library. In centers where conditions are unfavorable for the proper preparation of home lessons, study rooms are provided and teachers assigned to aid the pupils. In the recreation centers the department pays the salaries of principals, teachers and janitors. The social or community centers are largely self-sustaining.

The Bureau of Lectures of the Department of Education conducts a system of public lectures for the education of adults. In addition to evening lectures given in school buildings, courses are provided on a variety of topics and certificates awarded to those who complete a course and pass examinations.